TION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) total population of Orissa covered by TV transmission at present;

(b) whether Government proposes to cover the population of entire State; and

(c) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (c) TV service is at present available to about 56 per cent population of Orissa which would increase to about 74 per cent on completion of various Seventh Plan schemes. Extension of TV service to the remaining uncovered parts of the country including those of Orissa State can be carried out in a phased manner subject to availability of resources in the future plans for TV expansion.

Land declared totally unproductive

2714. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total hectare of land declared completely unproductive due to denudation and Soil Erosion in the country;

(b) the total area under water logging and salination;

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(d) the allotment of funds in 7th Five Year Plan for the purpose; and

(e) whether Government have any special plan to increase the land resources in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Various estimates including that of National Commission on Agriculture, National Committee for Development of Backward Area, Rashrtiya Badh Ayog, Task Force on Shifting Cultivation and Land Utilisation Statistics (1981-82) indicate that an area of about 173 million hectares is affected by soil erosion and land degradation of different type. However, in absence of comprehensive and specific soil surveys, precise information relating to the extent of land becoming completely unproductive due to denudation and soil erosion in the country, is not available.

(b) The estimated area affected due to (i) water-logging and (ii) salinity (including coastal sandy areas) alkalinity are about 8.5 million hectares and 9 million hectares respectively.

(c) Appropriate specific location-based and problem wise technology of package of practices through the Agricultural Universities and Indian Council of Agriculture Research have been developed. Programmes for soil conservation, land development and reclamation have been launched. Important development programme that are currently under implementation to tackle the problem of erosion and degradation are:—

(1) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Projects.

(2) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchments of Flood Prone Rivers.

(3) National Watershed Development Programme in Rainfed Areas.

(4) World Bank supported—

(i) Pilot Project of Watershed Development in Rainfed Areas of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

(ii) Himalayan Watershed Management in Uttar Pradesh.

(5) European Economic Community (EEC) supported.

(i) Integrated Watershed Management in the Ravinous Areas of Chambal and Yamuna in Uttar Pradesh.

(ii) Integrated Watershed Management Project in Gujarat.

(6) Reclamation of Ravinous Areas in Dacoity Prone districts of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(7) Control of Shifting Cultivation.

(8) Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Soil, Water and Tree Conservation in the Himalayas.

(9) Drought Prone Area Programme.

(10) Desert Development Programme.

(11) State Sector Programmes of Soil Conservation.

(d) An outlay of Rs. 237.88 crores has been allocated for the Seventh Plan for Central Soil Conservation Sector Scheme.

(e) For increasing the land area for productive use, the approach is to develop and reclaim problem areas with appropriate technological package of practices and bring them to productive use.

Promotion of SC/ST employees in Central Warehousing Corporation

2715. SHRI ANAND PRAKASH GAUTAM: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Central Warehousing Corporation Group A and B employees belonging to SC/ST categories have not been given promotions even after completing the requisite length of service for promotion;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) What is the details of the Group A and B employees promoted to the higher post during the last three years, category-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) and (b) There is no time bound promotion scheme in vogue in the Central Warehousing Corporation under which all eligible employees, who are fit for promotion, are automatically promoted to the next higher post after completing the requisite length of service. Promotions are made on the basis of the vacancies available in each grade. This criterion is applicable to both general category and SC/ST category officers.

(c) The number of group A and B officers belonging to general as also SC/ST categories promoted to the higher posts, during the last three years, is indicated below:—

Year	Group A		Group B	
	General category	SC/ST category	General category	SC/ST category
1	2	3	4	5
1986	..	..	3	..
1987	46	14	16	
1988	1	1	72	24
	47	15	91	26